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Community Relations Minutes 06/02/2008

Approved by Subcommittee on June 18, 2008

**Community Relations Subcommittee
June 2, 2008 - Meeting #2
-Minutes-**

In attendance: Jeff Thielman (Subcommittee Chair)

Ron Spangler (Subcommittee Member)

Sue Sheffler (Subcommittee Member)

Nate Levenson (Superintendent)

Ted Dever (Athletic Director)

Clint Schwamb (Arlington Soccer Club, Adult Soccer)

Lisa Reale (Arlington Women's Adult Soccer)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. The minutes of the May 14, 2008 meeting were approved. **Motion by Ron Spangler, second by Sue Sheffler. Approved 3-0.**

2. Update on incident at Peirce Field on Sunday, May 18, 2008

Mr. Levenson distributed a memo from Fire Chief Robert J. Jefferson to Brian Sullivan, Town Manager.

Chief Jefferson said there was no delay in the fire department's response or access to the field on Sunday May 18th, when an adult soccer player suffered a heart attack. The chief wrote: "Our response records show a 2-minute response by E-2, followed by Armstrong ALS and BLS units. E-2 crew proceeded immediately to the victim and took over from citizens doing CPR . . .According to Armstrong records, their units were on scene 13 minutes before starting transport. That is a very quick turn around from on scene to transport for a cardiac arrest victim. The fact that the gate was locked had no effect on patient care."

The Chief went on to write: "From what I have heard, people felt there was a delay in our response and that we should have pulled the ambulance on the field. Both of these are not true. The normal bystanders lose perception of time and actions on an emergency situation."

3. Fees for Peirce Field

Mr. Levenson and Mr. Dever reviewed the proposed fees for Peirce Field. They noted that the suggested structure of different fees for field rentals with and without lights came from community input at the last subcommittee meeting on May 14th.

Ms. Reale and Mr. Schwamb spoke in favor of the proposed fee structure. Mr. Thielman noted that the first draft of the fee schedule was done by Mr. Schwamb. Mr. Schwamb said the fees "were absolutely fine" and something the adult soccer leagues were anticipating.

Mr. Spangler mentioned that one user contacted him to say that the fees were more than his particular group had planned for. He said that the in-town adult soccer teams include a lot of people who volunteer their time to coach Arlington's kids on the weekends. These volunteer obligations leave them no alternative aside from weeknights for their own training. Mr. Spangler said "they asked for a fee of not more than \$100,

and I think it's reasonable to give it to them. Based on the forecasted hours, we'd still raise \$40,000 if we did that."

Motion by Ms. Sheffler to adopt the fee schedule proposed by Mr. Levenson, Mr. Dever and Mr. Connally, beginning July 1, 2008. Second by Mr. Spangler.

Mr. Spangler then moved to amend the motion by changing the rental fee per hour to \$50 without lights and \$100 with lights for Adult Groups from Arlington. (The Dever – Levenson – Connally proposal called for \$75 without lights and \$125 with lights for this category of user). Second by Mr. Thielman.

Mr. Dever opined that the fees proposed for adult users were already lower than surrounding towns. He felt the proposal drafted was fair and did not favor Mr. Spangler's proposal. Mr. Levenson agreed as did Ms. Reale, Mr. Schwamb, Mr. Thielman, and Ms. Sheffler. Mr. Levenson pointed out that the \$30,000 goal was a minimum and that the school department could use as much revenue as possible.

Ms. Reale asked whether the goal was to give as many groups in the community the opportunity to use the field or to get as much revenue as possible from it. Mr. Thielman answered that the goal was to give as many groups as possible access to the field and collect fees from selected users. He said that he would not support an approach that pushed groups who did not pay fees (youth groups) off the field in favor of groups that did pay fees. The idea was to capture fees from non-Arlington youth groups already using the fields. Other subcommittee members agreed.

Mr. Dever said that a number of groups had contacted him about using the field. He feels the proposed fee structure is competitive or even low and will attract groups to the field.

Mr. Spangler's motion to amend the main motion was defeated 2-1 (Spangler Yes, Thielman and Sheffler No). The subcommittee then took up the main motion.

The main motion, to adopt the fee schedule proposed by Mr. Levenson, Mr. Dever and Mr. Connally, was approved 3-0.

The subcommittee then discussed the presentation of the motion and chart to the full School Committee on June 10th. Mr. Thielman asked if it was necessary to have Mr. Dever and others who took part in the process report at the meeting. Mr. Spangler, Mr. Levenson, and Ms. Sheffler agreed that this was not necessary. The motion and the excel chart were sufficient. Mr. Levenson said he could answer any questions that might be directed to Mr. Dever by School Committee members.

4. Other business

- The subcommittee agreed to invite the Redevelopment Board, Town Manager, and Chair of the Board of Selectmen to a future Community Relations Subcommittee meeting to discuss the future of the Parmenter and Crosby schools. Specifically, the subcommittee is interested in discussing the value of each property, restrictions on disposition, and other matters related to the possible sale of these facilities.
- A future meeting will discuss university partnerships.
- Denise Burns, School Committee Chair, had requested that the Community Relations Subcommittee look into work being done by a security working group.
- The subcommittee agreed that a priority for now is planning a joint meeting regarding the Parmenter and Crosby schools. Mr. Thielman was directed to contact the parties mentioned above for this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Motion by Mr. Spangler, second by Ms. Sheffler. Approved 3-0.

Next Meeting: To be determined.

Contact Information of Attendees to today's meeting

Name	Affiliation	Email
Ted Dever	High School Athletic Director	tdever@arlington.k12.ma.us
Clint Schwamb	Member of the Board of	soccacoach@comcast.net

	Arlington Youth Soccer, representative of Arlington Adult soccer programs	
Lisa Reale	Representative of Arlington Women's Soccer	lisamreale@gmail.com